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AIR. *v. a.*

- I. 8, 1. To expose to the air.
- 8, 3. To warm by the fire.

AIRER. *Sub. of the person.*

- I. 8, 1. He that exposes to the air.
- 8, 3. He that warms at the fire.

AIRY. *Adj.*

- I. 1. Composed of air.
- 3. Relating to the air. High in air.
- 4. Fluttering, loose.
- 5. Light as air, thin. Wanting reality.
- 8. Open to the free air.
- II. 5. Gay, sprightly.

AIRILY. *Adv.*

- I. 5. In a light manner. Jauntily.

AIRLESS. *Adj.*

- I. 1. Wanting air.
- 5. Wanting or deficient in mien or manner.

UNAIRD. *Part.*

- I. 8, 1. Not exposed to air.
- 8, 3. Not warmed.

The two words *airily*, *unaired*, suggested by the plan, are not to be found even in Todd's Johnson; and there are perhaps hundreds, equally legitimate, which have been overlooked in like manner. R.

To the Editor of the Dublin Literary Gazette and National Magazine.

My dear Sir—The following letter may probably interest the readers of your excellent magazine, (if you favour it with a place in your forthcoming number) as much from the analysis of the speeches of certain eminent men of the last century, as from the connexion of many of them with Edmund Burke, whose class-fellow, Dennis, (mentioned in the "Unpublished Remains" which you inserted in your first number,) was the writer. The letter bears no date; but from the character of the handwriting, compared with others of the same individual, appears to have been written at rather an advanced age. Mr. Walker, the gentleman addressed, was, I believe, father of Cooper Walker, Esq. of this city, the accomplished author of "Irish Bards," and other works of interest and research. The writer was ordained shortly after Burke's entrance into political life, and in a great measure owed his preferment in the church, (which was considerable,) to the interest of his illustrious friend.

I am, my dear Sir, faithfully yours,

Φ

Dear Walker—It is neither that I doubt your parliamentary intelligence, or mean to triumph in my good fortune of hearing Hamilton yesterday that I send you an account of yesterday's transactions in the house, but to inform you more particularly of the important debate about raising the popish regiments.

Mr. Rowley made a motion that an humble address of the house should be made to the lord lieutenant, to know if there was any intention to raise popish regiments in this kingdom for the service of any foreign prince or state. The provost opposed the resolution, (with great earnestness in a very methodical discourse,) both from the impropriety of the address and the propriety of the measure, if the court

chose to adopt it: the first he proved unconstitutional, and the latter both necessary and salutary. M'Aulay (in a long lengthened speech, as usual,) strove to invalidate the provost's argument, insisted it was illegal in the act, improper in the time, and undeserved by the lower papists. Flood (in an elegant and well-pointed discourse) urged the necessity of the measure from the distressed state of Portugal, the exhausted state of Britain, and Ireland's being the only resource for immediate recruits; that seventy years' sufferings with a peaceable demeanour gave an earnest and security of the papists' good conduct hereafter, and concluded, that let who would adopt sentiments opposite to government and contrary to humanity, he would not. One argument he used very strongly from the conduct of the Scotch regiments, under resentment for the slaughter of their kindred and ravage of their country, though commanded by the son of an executed peer, yet brave and loyal; how much more would Irish papists, who had no such immediate causes to awaken their disloyalty. Le Hunt stood up against the panegyrists of the papists, talked much of law, and much of danger in the measure: thought they had no right to debate on a matter which was foreign to the resolution;—that the address was parliamentary, but that the state of Portugal, and all the other matter, was foreign to the business of that day, and added that the papists were the same as they had ever been—willing and ready for rebellion, and appealed to the conduct of the levellers as a proof of it. At length the prime sergeant rose. He observed that the address was an impeachment of the measure, and as such improper, and thence came to defend the measure itself; he proved it expedient, and proved it lawful; he compared the state of Ireland in its different periods, 1641, 1688, 1715, 1745, and 1762; displayed the conduct of the papists in these different periods, and the motives for their conduct; he quoted instances of papists raised by king William, showed it did not aid the growth of popery, observed how little a military spirit increased bigotry, (which argument had been used against his side before) and after a display of both learning and eloquence, gave way to other speakers.

Perry spoke handsomely, modestly, and with law, for the resolution. Osborne, on the same side, with fire, sense, and a seemingly patriot spirit. French, short and pithy against it. Dennis supported it, *haud viribus æquis*. [O! my name-sake should have been silent.] Fitzgibbon spoke too much, but sensibly, against it. Those brighter or dimmer stars being set, the sun of eloquence, Hamilton, rose. He said all that should, and nothing that should not, be said; displayed the double duty of a secretary and a representative; gave up the first to act as the second; weighed the different powers of the parts of our legislature, the barriers between them, the checks on each, and the methods of intercourse and redress; proved the address was not constitutional, and was contrary to the usages of their own or the British parliament. He entered into the principles and spirit of law itself, applied it to our constitution; showed the difference between interested protestants and the protestant religion, and distinguished the latter in its religious and political acceptation: came to the papists of Ireland, freed them from imputation of ill design in their offers to raise regiments, which offers were made with all humility, and not pointed to any particular place, but where the government should think fit; observed the inhumanity of blaming for not serving their country, and spurning them if they offered it, calling their complaint disaffection, and their silence conspiracy; showed from their conduct they had no

inclination, and from their prospects, no inducement to rebel; that the remaining Stuart was an old distant and deserted mendicant, living on Italian generosity: the present king in the vigour of his youth, with troops and ships innumerable, the heir of victory, and crowned with conquests. After a fine enlargement on this, he concluded that the fleets of France were annihilated, their armies conquered, their noblest settlements in our hands, and if we would rob them of the last resource they could hope, which was from home dissensions, that we should endeavour to make this country like England, free from distrust and linked in harmony. After Hamilton ended Le Hunt spoke some little immaterial matter, and at ten the house came to a division, when the court carried it against the address, 113 to 63.

So ended this remarkable debate of near nine hours. In the whole it was carried on with more decency and moderation, more spirit and freedom of thought and expression than any I was ever witness to. Hamilton in style exceeds all I could imagine; in fire and force of argument nothing I have met is equal to him. You are so hurried away by the cogency, rapidity and brilliancy of his matter, that you do not see his method, which becomes more elegant from being latent. In fine, he is so much more than I hoped, and so equal to what he was represented to you, that I no more admire at your concern for not hearing him, than you can at my exultation in the pleasure he gave

Yours, &c. &c.

W. D.

N. B.—This remarkable debate happened on Monday, the 12th of April, 1762.

The following letter possesses considerable interest from the deserved celebrity of the writer: we can vouch for its genuineness, as the original is in our possession; it is curious to find so great a man as Washington mixing up political principles with gooseberry cuttings.—ED.

Mount Vernon, March 2nd, 1789.

Sir—Your polite letter, dated the 11th of October last, has been duly received, and merits my particular acknowledgement. I have also to thank you very sincerely for the gooseberry plants, which have arrived safe at Baltimore, from whence I have not yet been able to obtain them on account of ice in our rivers. I shall have your directions as to the mode of culture particularly observed, and hope the plants may succeed as happily as in your climate. For you may be assured the greater care of them will be taken, because it is a natural circumstance for us to feel a predilection for whatever comes from one whose ordinary pursuits and political principles are consonant to our own.

I am not without hopes that Sir Edward Newenham and yourself will find time, at some period in your lives, to make a visit to America, for which you have both witnessed so ardent an attachment.

I cannot conclude this letter without expressing my great obligations for your kind offers of contributing, by the transmission of other natural productions of your country, to my rural amusement; and assuring you that

I have the honor to be, with great consideration, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

To Colonel William Perce.

To the Editor of the National Magazine.

Sir—As every information which may lead to the development of the resources of this island must be a matter of interest and attention to you, I beg to lay before you a statement relative to the whale fishery, which is either unknown, or forgotten; and if, in the improved state of our trade and commerce, this matter can be revived to good effect, I am sure it will give you satisfaction, and *our country* no small profit. At any rate it will amuse your readers.

In the year 1763, the Irish parliament granted to Messrs. Nesbit and Company, the sum of £1500, "for the encouragement of the whale fishery on the north-west coast of Ireland, and the manufacturing the bone and blubber."

In a private committee, which had been appointed to examine their petition, the following particulars appeared, though not reported:—

In the year 1736, a certain lieutenant of the name of Chaplin, quartered at Gibraltar, and who had been formerly employed in the Greenland fishery, was informed by captain Nesbit, who was also quartered in that garrison, that in the spring of the year many whales frequented the north-west coast of Ireland, from Tyland-head in the county of Donegal, to the bay of Sligo. Chaplin being an enterprising man, sold his commission soon after he had received this information, and came to Ireland with a view to fish for these whales; he accordingly procured two boats to be made upon the model of those used in the Greenland seas, and furnished himself with harpoons and other instruments; but he was able to kill only two whales in eight years. As then whales were in great plenty on the coast, he imputed his bad success to the want of a better apparatus, which not being able to purchase, he applied to parliament for aid, and obtained a grant of £500, but dying before he received it, it was never issued. After his death, his brother pursued his project with no better success for eight years more, during which time he also killed two whales, and then died.

In the year 1759, Messrs. Thomas and Andrew Nesbit, who lived near Killibegs, on the sea-coast of the county of Donegal, and who were very skilful in the herring and whale fisheries carried on there, seeing whales in great numbers, revived Chaplin's undertaking, and took for granted that he miscarried either for want of money, or perseverance. In this project they engaged Messrs. Benson and Irwin, gentlemen of credit and property, and procured a ship to be fitted up in the Greenland fashion, with five boats of a new construction: they also procured harpooners and other persons experienced in the Greenland fishery, and in the year 1760, they began to fish; but though they saw many whales, they were able to kill none. Mr. Thomas Nesbit afterwards killed one large whale with his own hand; and as there was no manufactory for the bone or blubber in Ireland, he sent it to London. After procuring some alterations and improvements to be made in his ship, he made another attempt, with five of the ablest and most skilful harpooners he could get, and eight boats, extremely well provided; yet not a single whale was killed that season, though great plenty were seen, and opportunities of striking them often offered.

At length the company having expended £3000 in the undertaking, it was discovered that the method of fishing and harpooning in Greenland would not answer in these seas, because that in Greenland, the waters

being always calm, the boats are not agitated, so that the harpooner is more sure of his stroke, and the whale frequently bends his head downwards, in order to plunge under water, which the fishers call backing, and which straining or tightening the skin, the harpooner seizes that instant to strike, and the harpoon enters deeply, which it would not do if the skin hung loose over the blubber. In *our* seas, on the contrary, or at least off Donegal, the water is always rough, either by a wind or a swell, so that the harpooner can take no aim, and the whale seldom backing, (bending his back) but lying extended on the water, with the skin loose and flaccid over the fat; the harpoon, though it may reach him with considerable force, does not enter. Mr. Nesbit, therefore, in order to give force to the harpoon, and also to the lances, which are discharged at the fish every time he rises after the harpoon has entered, contrived to discharge both the harpoon and the lance from a swivel-gun, which succeeded so well, that in the year 1762, the company killed three whales, two of which were between 60 and 70 feet long, and the other above 50; and in this year, 1763,* they have killed two whales of a large size, which is more than many ships have done that have been fitted out for Greenland, at a vast expense.

In this state of the undertaking, they petitioned Parliament for aid, and this committee granted them £1000, as mentioned above.

It is to be observed, that in the sea off the coast of Donegal, there are, besides the whales that yield only bone and blubber, the train-fish, the porpoise, the sunfish, and the spermaceti whale, besides seals in abundance. The teeth of the spermaceti whale are shaped like a cucumber, and are about 18 inches long; they are as white as ivory, take a fine polish, and make very beautiful and durable handles for knives, &c. The sun-fish is valuable for the oil that is extracted from the liver, each fish yielding about a ton: they are found all the year, and are taken with great ease: the other fish and the seals are of little value.

Here then is an opening for a company, affording as plausible a ground for enterprise, and as fair a source of speculation as can well be presented. It is true it *has* failed; but then if we consider the improved state of general science and information, there is *now* every reason to hope that national and parliamentary encouragement seasonably granted, might upon a renewal of the trial, present a very different result from that which we have above recorded. A town of no small extent has been built at Donegal, or rather the town and harbour of Donegal have been considerably improved within these last five or six years; it is principally (if not altogether) the property of the Earl of Arran, and under the superintendence of an active and intelligent agent, has risen to great prosperity, and promises to be a place of very respectable trade and commerce. Here I am led to believe, every encouragement to rational adventure would be held out, and a grand scope afforded to our national resources.

Under this impression I have forwarded to you the above interesting statement, assured by the uniform tenor of your writings, and by the zeal and ability with which the interests of Ireland are always advocated in the National Magazine, that you will give it the publicity and patriotic support which it so richly deserves.

I am, Sir, &c.

W. H. P.

Sep. 7, 1830.

* This was written in 1763.